

DAILY BULLETIN

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UNITED STATES, RUSSIA OUTLINE JOINT BRATISLAVA INITIATIVES

Fact sheet issued in conjunction with Bush-Putin meeting in Slovak Republic..... 1

U.S., RUSSIA AGREE ON MAN-PORTABLE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS

Fact sheet cites coordinated efforts to counter proliferation of MANPADS 3

SCIENCE CONTINUES TO IMPROVE FARMING, U.S. AGRICULTURE HEAD SAYS

Research also increases understanding of farm diseases, Johanns adds..... 4

UNITED STATES, BRAZIL CONSULT ON HEMISPHERIC FREE-TRADE TALKS

Differences narrowed, FTAA process moving in right direction..... 5

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UNITED STATES, RUSSIA OUTLINE JOINT BRATISLAVA INITIATIVES

Fact sheet issued in conjunction with Bush-Putin meeting in Slovak Republic

The United States and Russia issued a joint fact sheet February 24 outlining initiatives to which Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Bush are committing themselves in the areas of nuclear security cooperation, Russia's bid for membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO), energy cooperation, counterterrorism, space cooperation, and humanitarian, social and people-to-people cooperation.

The joint fact sheet was issued in conjunction with the meeting between Presidents Bush and Putin February 24 in Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

Following is the text as released by the White House:

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
(Bratislava, Slovak Republic)
February 24, 2005

U.S.-RUSSIA JOINT FACT SHEET BRATISLAVA INITIATIVES

Joint Presidential Action

The President of the Russian Federation and the President of the United States committed to pursue a number of initiatives that will make the two countries and their citizens safer and more prosperous. The Presi-

dents issued joint statements on three matters and agreed to personally ensure progress on all three issues. They will assess progress at subsequent meetings this year.

Nuclear Security Cooperation

The two countries will enhance cooperation to counter one of the gravest threats the two countries face, nuclear terrorism. This cooperation will include:

- Enhancing an emergency response capability to deal with a nuclear or radiological incident, including development of additional technical methods to detect nuclear and radioactive materials that are, or may be, involved in the incident;
- Working together to help ensure full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 [which requires all States “to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery” and to, “in accordance with their national procedures, adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them”];
- Sharing “best practices” for the sake of improving security at nuclear facilities bilaterally and with other nations with advanced nuclear programs;
- Enhancing of the “security cultures” in both countries; and
- Working jointly to develop low-enriched uranium fuel for use in any U.S.- and Russian-design research reactors in third countries now using high-enriched uranium fuel, and to return fresh and spent high-enriched uranium from U.S.- and Russian-design research reactors in third countries.

While the security of U.S. and Russian nuclear facilities meet current requirements, the Presidents stressed that these requirements must be constantly enhanced to counter evolving terrorist threats. To this end, the Presidents agreed to develop a plan of work through and beyond 2008 for cooperation on security upgrades of nuclear facilities.

The Presidents established a U.S.-Russian Senior Interagency Group for cooperation on nuclear security (including the disposition of fissile material no longer needed for defense purposes) chaired by Secretary of Energy Bodman and Rosatom Director Rumyantsev. The Senior Interagency Group will report on implementation of the two countries’ cooperation in this sphere, taking into account key financial, legal, technical, and other considerations.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The Presidents committed the United States and Russia to work together to complete our bilateral negotiations for Russia’s accession to the WTO in 2005 and to help Russia complete the multilateral negotiations necessary for WTO accession. Russian WTO membership will integrate Russia more fully into the global economy, improve the trade, regulatory, and investment climate, and facilitate increased U.S.-Russian trade and investment.

Energy Cooperation

The Presidents directed the U.S. and Russian Ministers of Energy and Commerce to meet to develop recommendations on how to intensify and develop further the bilateral energy dialogue, including through the mechanisms of the Energy Working Group and the Commercial Energy Dialogue. The Presidents set a goal of identifying concrete trade and investment opportunities for U.S. and Russian firms, including in support of Russia’s pipeline and liquefied natural gas development and increased Russian oil and gas imports to U.S. markets; and targeting the initiation of several such projects no later than 2008.

The Presidents also instructed their governments to enhance cooperation in a number of other areas.

Counterterrorism

In the area of counterterrorism, the Presidents:

- Directed the co-chairs of the U.S.-Russian Counterterrorism Working Group to update their action plan, taking into consideration new counterterrorism challenges, and to press forward on implementation of action plan items;
- Agreed, because of the growing threat posed by terrorist use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), to direct U.S. and Russian experts to share information on IEDs; and

-- Instructed U.S. and Russian experts to facilitate efforts to store MANPADS more securely, or to destroy them if they are obsolete or otherwise exceed defense requirements, and to eliminate the illegal trade in such weapons, building on the MANPADS agreement signed in Bratislava by Minister Ivanov and Secretary Rice. That agreement provides a bilateral framework for the United States and Russia to cooperate in the control of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles that can threaten global aviation if obtained by criminals, terrorists and other non-state actors.

Space Cooperation

-- In the area of space cooperation, the Presidents called for enhanced cooperation, focusing on the International Space Station and other projects, including those related to possible lunar exploration.

Humanitarian, Social and People-to-People Cooperation

In the areas of humanitarian, social, and people-to-people cooperation, the Presidents:

-- Called for efforts to further enhance our coordination when responding to humanitarian emergencies. They tasked their governments to build on previous collaboration and develop a bilateral mechanism to further improve coordination of our responses to future humanitarian emergencies and to convene a joint expert session, with other nations, to develop lessons learned from the response to the Indian Ocean tsunami;

-- Affirmed their commitment to strengthening contacts between our societies and the citizens of our two countries by increasing the number of students, teachers, scientists, cultural workers, business people, and people from various professions who participate in bilateral exchange programs. They directed their governments to present specific proposals; and

-- Called for greater joint efforts in countering the global threat of the spread of HIV/AIDS by identifying, training, and deploying health care professionals and raising public awareness. They instructed their governments to consider the possibility of joint work to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in third countries, at the request of those countries.

U.S., RUSSIA AGREE ON MAN-PORTABLE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS

Fact sheet cites coordinated efforts to counter proliferation of MANPADS

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Russian Defense Minister Sergey Ivanov signed an agreement February 24 that provides a bilateral framework for cooperation in the control of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles that could threaten global aviation if obtained by criminals, terrorists and other non-state actors.

The U.S.-Russia Arrangement on Cooperation in Enhancing Control of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) was signed in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, during a visit by President Bush that included a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

One goal of the MANPADS arrangement is to facilitate the destruction of MANPADS that are obsolete or otherwise in excess of legitimate defense requirements, according to the fact sheet. It also will allow Russia and the United States to share information about MANPADS sales and transfers to third countries

Following is the fact sheet:

U.S. Department of State
Office of the Spokesman
February 24, 2005

U.S.-RUSSIA ARRANGEMENT ON COOPERATION IN ENHANCING CONTROL OF MAN-PORTABLE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS (MANPADS)

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Russian Defense Minister Sergey Ivanov signed the United States-Russia Arrangement on Cooperation in Enhancing Control of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) in Bratislava, Slovakia today. This Arrangement provides a bilateral framework for cooperation in the control of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles that can threaten global aviation if obtained by criminals, terrorists and other non-state actors. One goal of this Arrangement is to facilitate the destruction of MANPADS that are obsolete or otherwise in excess of legitimate defense requirements. This Arrangement also will allow the two countries to share information about MANPADS sales and transfers to third countries.

Key elements of this Arrangement include:

- Mutual assistance in destroying excess and obsolete MANPADS through an exchange of information on the methods and means of destroying them as well as through the provision of technical and financial assistance in carrying out their destruction.
- The exchange of information on controlling MANPADS, including improving measures to enhance physical security and the taking of inventory, and control during the production, safeguarding, transfer, and destruction of MANPADS and individual components thereof.
- Further mutual coordination on preventing the global proliferation of MANPADS.

This Arrangement represents a significant step forward in our strategy to coordinate efforts in countering the global proliferation of MANPADS. It serves as an example of what the United States and Russia can accomplish by working together on such vital issues.

What are MANPADS?

Man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), commonly described as shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, are surface-to-air missile systems designed to be man-portable and fired by a single individual; and other surface-to-air missile systems designed to be operated and fired by more than one individual acting as a crew and portable by several individuals (as defined in the Wassenaar Arrangement.)

What threat do MANPADS pose?

The possession of MANPADS in the hands of criminals, terrorists, and other non-state actors poses a serious threat to passenger air travel, the global commercial aviation industry and military aircraft. The United States recognized the emergence of this threat beginning in the 1980s and has been working with other countries and international organizations to mitigate it.

How many MANPADS are available in the world?

We believe that approximately one million may have been produced worldwide, with a much smaller amount (numbering in the thousands) currently in the hands of non-state actors.

What is the U.S. doing against the threat of MANPADS?

Preventing the proliferation of MANPADS and their availability to criminals and terrorists is a top national security priority of the United States.

The U.S. Government provides assistance to other countries to either destroy the stocks of MANPADS that are not needed for their defense, or to better secure their stockpiles. To date we have destroyed or disabled over 10,500 MANPADS in 12 countries.

The U.S. Government also works within multilateral fora to strengthen controls on the import and export of MANPADS needed for legitimate defense. Mechanisms include the U.S. participation in the Wassenaar Arrangement, a nonproliferation regime that promotes transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, and our support for United Nations, NATO, and OSCE initiatives to control arms and munitions. This new Arrangement will complement our ongoing efforts under those initiatives.

The U.S. Government has also initiated a program that could lead to the installation of countermeasures on commercial aircraft.

SCIENCE CONTINUES TO IMPROVE FARMING, U.S. AGRICULTURE HEAD SAYS

Research also increases understanding of farm diseases, Johanns adds

By Kathryn McConnell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Farmers and researchers continue to discover ways to improve agricultural production through innovative uses of new technologies, says U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns.

Speaking February 24 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) annual Agricultural Outlook Forum, Johanns said that advances in science are also helping food producers better understand the causes of and potential cures for crop and animal diseases.

In addition, science and technology research is being used to develop new applications for farm products, Johanns said, citing recent advances such as the development of biofuels, new fibers and allergen-free foods.

Addressing the meeting, scientist Norman Borlaug, known as the "father of the green revolution," said new applications of food technologies -- such as biotechnology -- can result in more food produced from lands already in production, more efficient use of water resources and less use of farm chemicals.

Farming using seeds developed through biotechnology also can help reduce farm labor and fuel costs, help reduce soil erosion and control pests, he said.

New technologies have been used in farmland-conservation programs, allowing wildlife to return to land that was formerly used for production, Borlaug said.

He called for governments to support more efficient food production by reforming their policies related to taxes and land ownership so that more farmers can adopt new technologies.

Borlaug said that private funding for biotechnology research is needed in addition to more government funding for food research and development.

With more funding, Borlaug said, research could help discover a way to transfer the immunity to rust disease now found in some varieties of rice to other cereal grains including wheat, maize, sorghum and barley.

He warned that a type of soybean rust now being seen in East Africa is threatening to spread to Asia.

The Bush administration, in its budget request to Congress for the fiscal year beginning October 1 (FY06), is asking for \$996 million for agricultural research, said Kathie Olsen, associate director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, at the meeting.

The administration also has proposed establishing a National Institute for Food and Agriculture that would help guide food safety research, she said.

UNITED STATES, BRAZIL CONSULT ON HEMISPHERIC FREE-TRADE TALKS

Differences narrowed, FTAA process moving in right direction

After consultations between U.S. and Brazilian trade officials, efforts to forge a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) are moving in the right direction, says Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Public and Media Affairs Richard Mills.

The United States and Brazil are co-chairs of the FTAA process, and trade officials from both countries met in Washington February 22-23 to move the FTAA process forward.

In a February 24 conference call with reporters, Mills said that the FTAA remains a priority for the United States, and he indicated that the consultations were constructive and narrowed some differences between the two countries.

Mills acknowledged that establishing a balanced set of rights and obligations to guide FTAA negotiations has been a unique and difficult goal, but he said it remains one worth striving for.

He noted that the FTAA co-chairs will meet again March 29-30 and hope to reconvene the full FTAA Trade Negotiations Committee in late April or early May. Mills said that the United States hopes the latter session will establish a basis for moving the FTAA process forward.

Following is the text of a joint communiqué issued by the FTAA co-chairs:

Free Trade Area of the Americas
Trade Negotiations Committee

February 24, 2005

FTAA TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF CO-CHAIRS

The co-chairs of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) held consultations in Washington, D.C., February 22-23, 2005, on guidance for developing a common and balanced set of rights and obligations to be provided to the negotiators, as provided in the Miami Declaration. This meeting built on discussions among countries participating in the FTAA negotiations that have taken place

since the Seventeenth TNC meeting in Puebla, Mexico, in February last year.

The co-chairs have continued to make progress and are optimistic about the results of this meeting. We will meet again on March 29 and 30. The co-chairs will consult informally with delegations of the other FTAA countries.

Pleases Note: Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: www.usmission.ch

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